

350 pages, many of which are occupied by illustrations, but the author has written succinctly without any loss of clarity, and he can convey much valuable information in very little space. His illustrations have been chosen wisely, and their quality is of a remarkably high standard. There is no notable omission, with the single exception, perhaps, of an account of the important changes in the only part of the nervous system which can be directly observed by the student, namely, the retina. The reviewer is of the opinion that a short chapter on the several varieties of "optic neuritis" and their significance would have been a valuable addition to the book. The teaching is thoroughly sound. No space is wasted on the discussion of etiological hypotheses which benefit neither student nor patient. On the other hand, there is a shrewd criticism of the significance of structural changes as a means of classification on an etiological basis. In this connection it is interesting to note that the author has classified post-vaccinal encephalitis in the group of diseases of unknown etiology; and in the present state of knowledge that seems to be the best place to put it. Certainly the structural changes which are observed in this affection do not conform to those of any known virus disease.

Typographical errors are few and far between.

The book can be warmly recommended to all students of the pathology of the nervous system. It should go far to realize the author's hope that "through familiarity with the pathology of the various lesions the student will be tempted to envisage what is actually happening in the nervous tissues, and to take a more active interest in the elucidation of possible etiological factors."

VASCULAR DISORDERS OF THE LIMBS. By Sir Thomas Lewis, C.B.E., F.R.S., M.D., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.C.P. London: Macmillan & Co., 1936. Price 6s. 6d.

In every branch of medicine there come stages at which it is necessary to review the field of research, separate the "wheat from the chaff," and store the established facts for use when possible in the practice of medicine. Such an object is that of this excellent little book by this well-known author.

Before treating any cases of circulatory disturbance in the limbs, it is necessary to have a thorough knowledge of the normal circulation and its variations under different conditions. Consequently, the first section is devoted to this object.

Methods of testing which are of utmost importance are carefully explained, and it is interesting to note that tests practical to every practitioner are described.

The author then proceeds to various pathological conditions found in the extremities, and most instructive chapters follow on such things as embolism and thrombosis, ischæmic contracture, arterio-sclerosis and thrombo-angeitis obliterans, Raynaud's phenomenon, gangrene, vascular disorders in diseases of the nervous system, etc.

The various operations for vaso-dilatation are considered, and the indications for these procedures are clearly stated. The complications to these "sympathectomy" operations are also dealt with, and show that these may prove a real difficulty.

Useful hints are found throughout the book on treatment. For instance, the advantage of frequent changing of the position of the patient over the use of a water-bed, as a preventive of bed-sores.

The book may be recommended with confidence to every student and practitioner.

SALTS AND THEIR REACTIONS. By Leonard Dobbin, Ph.D., and J. E. Mackenzie, D.Sc. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1936. Sixth Edition. Pp. 246. 6s. net.

In the present edition of this book the subject matter has been brought up to date and much new material has been added. The first part is an excellent summary of a considerable amount

of information on salts, and deals briefly with such subjects as relative strengths of acids and bases, molecular weights, the analogy between gaseous and dissolved states, indicators and hydrogen ion concentration. Armed with the information obtained in the first part of the book, the reader is in a position to understand the theory underlying the suggestions for practical work set out in the later chapters. The reactions of the more common metallic and acidic radicals are described, and later summarized in a convenient scheme for practical qualitative analysis. A chapter on elementary volumetric analysis is included, and several examples are given in order to illustrate how the calculations involved may be worked out.

The appendix contains many interesting suggestions for experiments with common organic substances:—The carbohydrates, alcohol, soap, urea, milk, albumen, etc. The book should prove very useful to those sitting for university entrance scholarships and first-year degree examinations in chemistry.

AN INTRODUCTION TO HYGIENE. By W. Robertson, M.D., D.P.H., F.R.C.P.E. Edinburgh : E. & S. Livingstone, 1936. Second Edition. Pp. 314. Price 8s. 6d. net.

This little book provides what the title indicates, an introduction to the study of hygiene. The author points out the great importance of some knowledge of this subject to all those with medical qualifications, and shows the many fields open to those with special training in public health work. He emphasizes also the importance of supplementing such a book as this with practical experience and with larger textbooks.

The opening chapters describe briefly the administrative side of public health work, and the more important regulations governing vaccination, food supplies, notification of births, deaths, infectious diseases, are explained. A large section is devoted to infectious diseases, and details of incubation, incidence, prevention, epidemics, diagnosis, and treatment are given for all the common infectious diseases as well as many tropical ones.

Heating and lighting systems, housing, drainage, water supply, ventilation, and sewage disposal are described and illustrated with a large number of diagrams. The principles of dietetics are shown and the value of different foods compared. Vitamins, however, receive very little attention, and one is surprised to read such a statement that in no case has the chemical composition of any vitamin been discovered. Great emphasis is laid on milk supplies and pasteurization, and the regulations governing the sale of milk are given in a special appendix.

Maternal and infantile mortality, eugenics, birth control, school medical examination, occupational diseases, industrial conditions, and vital statistics are all considered. On the whole, one can say that a large amount of useful information has been arranged in an accessible and attractive form, and this book will be of use to the busy practitioner as well as to the student preparing for examination.

AN INVESTIGATION CONCERNING AN ANCIENT MEDICINAL REMEDY AND ITS MODERN UTILITIES. By C. J. Macalister, M.D., F.R.C.P. London : John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd., 1936. Pp. 60. Price 2s. 6d. net.

This little book of sixty pages contains a comprehensive account of comfrey (*symphytum officinale*) and the results obtained from its therapeutic use, both in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and within the last few years, during which the author has been trying to repopularize it. The active principle is allantoin, a substance closely related chemically to uric and nucleic acids. It is a normal constituent of allantoic fluid, urine in pregnancy, maternal milk, and the roots and buds of certain plants, i.e., it occurs in association with rapidly growing cells.

On injection into flower-buds it causes rapid development of the flower, so that it seems to have a stimulating action on cell growth. This conclusion is borne out by its stimulating